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UNCLAS OTTAWA 001627

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: USG PROPOSED UN COPUOS STSC SPACE DEBRIS

MITIGATION GUIDELINES

REF: SECSTATE 90961

1. ESTH Counselor discussed proposed guidelines transmitted in reftel with Doug Alworth of the Science and Technology Division of International Trade Canada. Alworth said that the Canadian Government is still reviewing the proposed guidelines and has not yet had consultations with industry contacts. With that caveat, he told ESTH Counselor that the GOC would be supportive of the work that had been done by the U.S. He noted that the GOC would have a number of suggestions to make at the meeting to improve the guidelines, such as including launches in the category of activities that could create debris and refining the definition of long-lived debris. But he characterized these issues as "nibbling at the edges" rather than any fundamental problem with the draft.

2. One issue that is important to the GOC, according to Alworth, is the timetable for approval and adoption of the guidelines. He said the GOC is not prepared to support approval of the guidelines at the upcoming COPUOS meeting, due to the need for further industry consultations.

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